Project Evaluation

Project Log # 200706083

Preliminary Evaluation of 14 Roundabout Installations

Documents Prepared By:

Safety Evaluation Group Traffic Safety Systems Management Section Traffic Engineering and Safety Systems Branch North Carolina Department of Transportation

Carried Sna		
	9/18/2007	
Carrie L. Simpson, PE	Date	

Traffic Safety Project Engineer

Principal Investigator

PROJECT INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND

A statewide listing of roundabout installation locations was obtained from the Congestion Management Section. Note that this was not necessarily an all-inclusive listing but contained all known locations at the time. It contained 37 roundabout locations, which were built between 1999 through 2006. Three of the locations were under private jurisdiction and were removed from the list because we could not obtain crash data. The remaining 34 roundabout locations are listed below in Table 1.

Seventeen locations contained enough after period data to perform a preliminary countermeasure evaluation. Note that three of these locations could not be evaluated (see *italicized* locations) because either the intersection did not exist prior to the roundabout installation or one of the legs was removed in the after period. The remaining 14 roundabout locations with greater than 3 years of after period crash data have been evaluated to provide preliminary results. All roundabout locations with less than three years of after period crash data will be evaluated in the future *Final Report* when enough after period data becomes available

TABLE 1. STATEWIDE LISTING OF ROUNDABOUT LOCATIONS

Locations For Preliminary Evaluation: Greater Than Three Years of After Period Crash Data Available

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Built	Div	County	Municipality	Location	Jurisdiction	Description			
1999	9	Forsyth	Clemmons	Fraternity Church at Hope Church	State	New School Drive			
2000	5	Durham	Durham	am Washington at Glendale		Modified Circle, Part of I-85 Detour Route			
2000	9	Forsyth	Lewisville	Williams at US 421 SB Ramps	State	Solved Capacity Problem			
2000	10	Mecklenburg	Charlotte	Ninth at Davidson	Muni				
2001	2	Craven	New Bern	Broad at E. Front *	State	Part of Enhancement Project			
2001	9	Forsyth	Winston-Salem	Westview at Buckingham	Muni	City - Possible Traffic Calming Location			
2002	9	Davie	Advance	NC 801 at I-40 EB Ramp	State	Developer - "Temporary" Intersection Fix			
2002	9	Forsyth	Bethania	Turfwood at Long Creek *	State	Developer			
2002	9	Forsyth	Lewisville	Styers Ferry at Utility	State				
2002	11	Wilkes		Yellowbanks at Haymeadow	State	Spot Safety			
2002	13	Buncombe	Asheville	Lake at Mountain	State	Developer			
2002	13	Buncombe	Asheville	WT Weaver at University Heights	State	City / University Project			
2003	1	Dare	Kill Devil Hills	Veterans at Sixth *	Muni	Built For New High School Drive			
2003	5	Durham	Durham	NC 751 at Old Erwin	State	Spot Safety			
2003	5	Wake	Raleigh	Pullen at Stinson	Muni				
2003	9	Forsyth	Lewisville	Williams at US 421 NB Ramps	State	"Mirror" Image Of Other Ramp			
2003	10	Mecklenburg	Charlotte	Park at Tremont	Muni	City - Possible Traffic Calming Location			

Future Locations to Be Evaluated: Less Than Three Years of After Period Crash Data Available

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Built	Div	County	Municipality	Location	Jurisdiction	Description				
2004	10	Mecklenburg	Charlotte	Shopton Road	State	Developer				
2004	10	Mecklenburg	Huntersville	Stumptown Road	State	Developer				
2004	14	Haywood	Waynesville	US 23B	State	TIP Project				
2004	14	Polk	Columbus	I-26 SB Ramp at NC 108	State	Interchange - Two Lane Bridge				

Future Locations to Be Evaluated: Less Than Two Years of After Period Crash Data Available

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Built	Div	County	Municipality	Location	Jurisdiction	Description
2005	5	Durham	Durham	Woodcroft at Highgate	Muni	City Safety Project, In Lieu Of Signal
2005	5	Durham	Chapel Hill	Ephesus Church at Pope	State	Developer Design / Build, Has Geometric Issues
2005	8	Moore	Southern Pines	Knoll Road	State	
2005	9	Forsyth	Winston-Salem	Old Salem/ Main at Salem	State	TIP Project U-2926 - Multilane
2005	10	Mecklenburg	Charlotte	Moores Chapel at I-485 NB Ramp	State	Roundabout Interchange - I-485 Not Open Yet
2005	10	Mecklenburg	Charlotte	Moores Chapel at I-485 SB Ramp	State	Roundabout Interchange - I-485 Not Open Yet
2005	12	Gaston	Gastonia	Gaston Day School Road	State	Safety Problem - Did Not Meet Signal Warrants
2005	13	Buncombe	Asheville	College at Oak	Muni	Downtown Redevelopment - Road "Diet"

Future Locations to Be Evaluated: Less Than One Year of After Period Crash Data Available

Built	Div	County	Municipality	Location	Jurisdiction	Description
2006	5	Wake	Wake Forest	NC 98 at US 1A	State	Moving Ahead Project
2006	10	Mecklenburg	Davidson	Griffith at Davidson Gateway	State	Developer - Multilane Existing Intersection
2006	10	Mecklenburg	Davidson	Griffith at Jetton	State	Developer - Multilane Existing Intersection
2006	10	Stanly	Norwood	Cottonville at South Stanly School	State	
2006	14	Polk	Columbus	I-26 NB Ramp at NC 108	State	Interchange - Two Lane Bridge

^{*}Could not evaluate due to the addition (or removal) of an intersection leg in the after period.

LOCATIONS FOR PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

The 14 roundabout locations with greater than 3 years of after period were divided into 3 groups by intersection characteristics. Group 1 consists of the roundabout locations with a mainline speed limit at or below 35 mph, and stop sign control in the before period. Group 2 consists of the roundabout locations with a mainline speed limit above 35 mph, and stop sign control in the before period. Group 3 (which contains only one location) consists of the roundabout locations with a mainline speed limit at or below 35 mph, and signalized control in the before period.

The roundabout locations contain a mix of rural and urban environments. A majority of sites have four intersection legs, although several have three intersection legs. Because field reviews were not performed prior to the preliminary evaluation, the speed limits were based on the TEAAS ordinance system where available. Where unavailable, crash reports were used to obtain the intersection approach speed limits. Field reviews will be performed prior to the final evaluation to confirm data.

Please see the *Appendices* for a location map and site photos obtained from the Congestion Management Section.

TABLE 2. LISTING OF ROUNDABOUT LOCATIONS FOR PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

Gro	up 1. Mainli	ne Speed Lim	it At or Below 35 mph (Prior C	Control -	- Stop Sign)			Speed Limit		
Div	County	Municipality	Location	Built	Prior Control	Setting	# Legs	Major Rd	Minor Rd	
5	Wake	Raleigh	Pullen at Stinson	2003	Stop	Urban	4	25	25	
10	Mecklenburg	Charlotte	Park at Tremont	2003	Stop	Urban	4	25	25	
5	Durham	Durham	Washington at Glendale	2000	Stop	Urban	4	35	35	
9	Forsyth	Winston-Salem	Westview at Buckingham	2001	Stop	Urban	4	35	35	
13	Buncombe	Asheville	WT Weaver at University Heights	2002	Stop	Urban	3	35	35	
9	Davie	Advance	NC 801 at I-40 EB Ramp	2002	Stop	Rural	4	35*	70 (Ramp)	
13	Buncombe	Asheville	Lake at Mountain	2002	Stop	Rural	3	35	35	

Grot	up 2. Mainli	ne Speed Lim	it Above 35 mph (Prior Contro	ol - Stop	Sign)			Speed Limit		
Div	County	Municipality	Location	Built	Prior Control	Setting	# Legs	Major Rd	Minor Rd	
9	Forsyth	Lewisville	Styers Ferry at Utility	2002	Stop	Rural	4	45	45	
9	Forsyth	Lewisville	Williams at US 421 SB Ramps	2000	Stop	Rural	4	45*	50*/65 (Ramp)	
9	Forsyth	Lewisville	Williams at US 421 NB Ramps	2003	Stop	Rural	4	45*	65 (Ramp)	
5	Durham	Durham	NC 751 at Old Erwin	2003	Stop	Rural	3	55	45	
9	Forsyth	Clemmons	Fraternity Church at Hope Church	1999	Stop	Rural	4	55	55	
11	Wilkes	N/A	Yellowbanks at Haymeadow	2002	Stop	Rural	4	55	55	

Gro	up 3. Mainli	Speed	l Limit						
Div	County	Municipality Location Built Prior Control Setting # Legs M						Major Rd	Minor Rd
10	Mecklenburg	Charlotte	Ninth at Davidson	2000	Signal	Urban	4	35	35

^{*} Speed limits based on TEAAS ordinances.

RESULTS

The following tables provide location and crash information for each of the treatment sites. Tables 3, 6, and 9 provide a listing of before and after crash data at each site. The treatment data consisted of all crashes within 150 feet of the treatment intersections. Please see the *Appendices* for the before and after collision diagrams provided at each location.

The analysis periods for the treatment sites were between 3.17 years and 7.17 years. Because the installation dates varied from 1999 through 2003, the time periods for each location varied depending on when the roundabout was constructed. The ending dates for the analyses were determined by the available crash data at the time the crash analysis was completed. Due to limited knowledge of the installation dates, the entire year of installation was omitted from this analysis to provide an adequate construction period. Note that the before and after time periods consisted of an equal number of years at each location.

Tables 4 and 7 provide the aggregated naïve before and after analysis for Groups 1 and 2, respectively. Note that the value after the "+/-" notation in this evaluation indicates the standard deviation of an estimated value.

Tables 5 and 8 provide the aggregated before and after analysis with an adjustment for traffic volumes for Groups 1 and 2, respectively. This adjustment was provided to consider the effects of an increase in volume, which the naïve before and after analysis does not take into account. A linear assumption was made to account for the increase in traffic volumes.

Group 1. Mainline Speed Limit At or Below 35 mph (Prior Control - Stop Sign)

TA	BLE 3. GR	OUP 1 CRA	SH DATA				Before		After	Percent Increase (+)/
Div	County	Municipality	Location	Built	Years	AADT	Total Crashes	AADT	Total Crashes	Percent Decrease (-)
5	Wake	Raleigh	Pullen at Stinson	2003	3.17	11000	12	12500	3	-75.0%
10	Mecklenburg	Charlotte	Park at Tremont	2003	3.17	7200	4	6000	4	0.0%
5	Durham	Durham	Washington at Glendale	2000	6.17	5500	4	5500	5	25.0%
9	Forsyth	Winston-Salem	Westview at Buckingham	2001	5.17	7400	6	6000	0	-100.0%
13	Buncombe	Asheville	WT Weaver at University Heights	2002	4.17	3000	10	3800	3	-70.0%
9	Davie	Advance	NC 801 at I-40 EB Ramp	2002	4.17	9000	12	16800	13	8.3%
13	Buncombe	Asheville	Lake at Mountain	2002	4.17	2000	0	2400	1	N/A

TABLE 4. GROUP 1 NAÏVE BEFORE AND AFTER ANALYSIS	Estimates of Parameters
Actual Number of After Period Crashes, λ	29 +/- 5
Predicted Number of After Period Crashes, π	48 +/- 7
Index of Effectiveness, θ	0.59 +/- 0.14
Percent Increase (+)/ Percent Decrease (-)	-41% +/- 14%

TABLE 5. GROUP 1 BEFORE AND AFTER ANALYSIS WITH TRAFFIC ADJUSTMENT	Estimates of Parameters
Actual Number of After Period Crashes, λ	29 +/- 5
Predicted Number of After Period Crashes, π	61 +/- 10
Index of Effectiveness, θ	0.46 +/- 0.11
Percent Increase (+)/ Percent Decrease (-)	-54% +/- 11%

For Group 1 Locations, the results of the naïve before and after analysis yield a 41% (+/- 14%) reduction in total crashes. Also, the results of the before and after analysis with consideration for traffic increase yielded a 54% (+/- 11%) reduction in total crashes.

Group 2. Mainline Speed Limit Above 35 mph (Prior Control - Stop Sign)

TA	BLE 6. GR	OUP 2 CRA	ASH DATA			Before		After	Percent Increase (+)/	
Div	County	Municipality	Location	Built	Years	AADT	Total Crashes	AADT	Total Crashes	Percent Decrease (-)
9	Forsyth	Lewisville	Styers Ferry at Utility	2002	4.17	4500	2	5000	2	0.0%
9	Forsyth	Lewisville	Williams at US 421 SB Ramps	2000	6.17	12900	11	14200	3	-72.7%
9	Forsyth	Lewisville	Williams at US 421 NB Ramps	2003	3.17	12500	4	13600	6	50.0%
5	Durham	Durham	NC 751 at Old Erwin	2003	3.17	16100	14	15600	2	-85.7%
9	Forsyth	Clemmons	Fraternity Church at Hope Church	1999	7.17	2200	0	4400	2	N/A
11	Wilkes		Yellowbanks at Haymeadow	2002	4.17	3600	4	2900	4	0.0%

TABLE 7. GROUP 2 NAÏVE BEFORE AND AFTER ANALYSIS	Estimates of Parameters
Actual Number of After Period Crashes, λ	19 +/- 4
Predicted Number of After Period Crashes, π	35 +/- 6
Index of Effectiveness, θ	0.53 +/- 0.15
Percent Increase (+)/ Percent Decrease (-)	-47% +/- 15%

TABLE 8. GROUP2 BEFORE AND AFTER ANALYSIS WITH TRAFFIC ADJUSTMENT	Estimates of Parameters
Actual Number of After Period Crashes, λ	19 +/- 4
Predicted Number of After Period Crashes, π	36 +/- 6
Index of Effectiveness, θ	0.52 +/- 0.15
Percent Increase (+)/ Percent Decrease (-)	-48% +/- 15%

For Group 2 Locations, the results of the naïve before and after analysis yield a 47% (+/- 15%) reduction in total crashes. Also, the results of the before and after analysis with consideration for traffic increase yielded a 48% (+/- 15%) reduction in total crashes.

Group 3. Mainline Speed Limit At or Below 35 mph (Prior Control - Signal)

TABLE 9. GROUP 3 CRASH DATA					Before		After		Percent Increase (+)/		
]	Div	County	Municipality	Location	Built	Years	AADT	Total Crashes	AADT	Total Crashes	Percent Decrease (-)
	10	Mecklenburg	Charlotte	Ninth at Davidson	2000	6.17	20500	31	19500	8	-74.2%

The single location in Group 3 experienced a 74% reduction in total crashes. Hopefully, in the *Final Report*, we will be able to utilize more locations with prior signalized control. Then we will be able to provide a more accurate estimate of the crash reductions for this group.

CONCLUSIONS

The preliminary evaluation of roundabout installations resulted in the following crash reduction factors:

Group 1. Mainline Speed Limit At or Below 35 mph (Prior Control – Stop Sign)

Total Crashes Using Naïve Before and After Analysis: -41% +/- 14%

Total Crashes Using Before and After Analysis With Traffic Adjustment: -54% +/- 11%

Group 2. Mainline Speed Limit Above 35 mph (Prior Control - Stop Sign)

Total Crashes Using Naïve Before and After Analysis: -47% +/- 15%

Total Crashes Using Before and After Analysis With Traffic Adjustment: -48% +/- 15%

Also, the single location in Group 3 (with Prior Control – Signal) experienced a 74% reduction in total crashes. The preliminary results demonstrate that all three groups of roundabout locations appear to have had a substantial reduction in the frequency of crashes from the before to the after period.

In addition to our preliminary study results, previous research has also shown that roundabouts may improve the safety of intersections. The crash reductions resulting from roundabout installations may be attributed to eliminating or altering conflict types, reducing speed differentials at intersections, and forcing drivers to decrease speeds as they proceed into and through the intersection. Roundabouts reduce vehicular crossing conflicts, thus diminishing the opportunity for Frontal Impact crashes to occur. The reduction of conflicts through the physical and geometric features of a roundabout have been shown to be more effective than the separation of conflicts by time as in a signalized intersection.

Please note that this is a preliminary evaluation based only on the current available data. This evaluation will be updated when there is at least three years of after data available at the remaining locations, so a more concrete conclusion can be drawn. At that time we will be able to provide more objective and definite information regarding actual crash reduction factors.

REFERENCES

- Federal Highway Administration. <u>Roundabouts: An Informational Guide</u>. FHWA-RD-00-67, Washington, D.C., 2000.
- 2. Persaud, B.N., R.A. Retting, P.E. Garder, and D. Lord. <u>Crash Reductions Following Installation of Roundabouts in the United States</u>. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, Arlington, VA, 2000.

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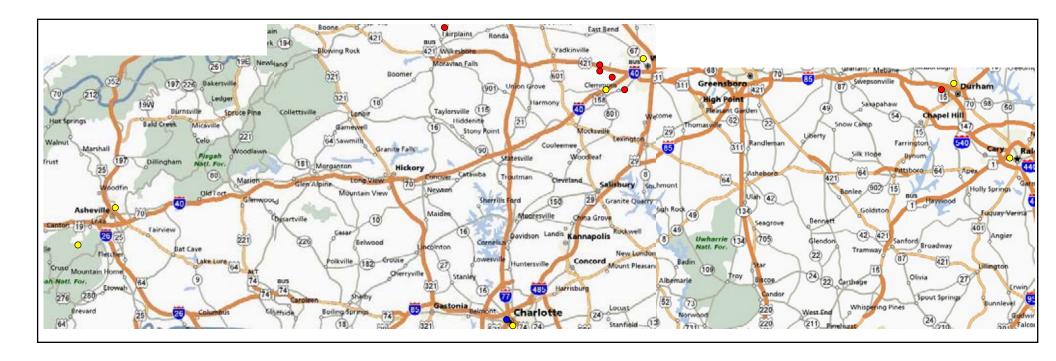
APPENDICES

- A) Location Map
- B) Location Photos and Collision Diagrams
 - Group 1 Group 2 Group 3

Appendix A. Location Map

LOCATION MAP: Roundabout Locations for Preliminary Evaluation

- Group 1. Seven Locations with Mainline Speed Limit At or Below 35 mph (Prior Control Stop Sign)
 Group 2. Six Locations with Mainline Speed Limit Above 35 mph (Prior Control Stop Sign)
 Group 3. One Location with Mainline Speed Limit At or Below 35 mph (Prior Control Signal)



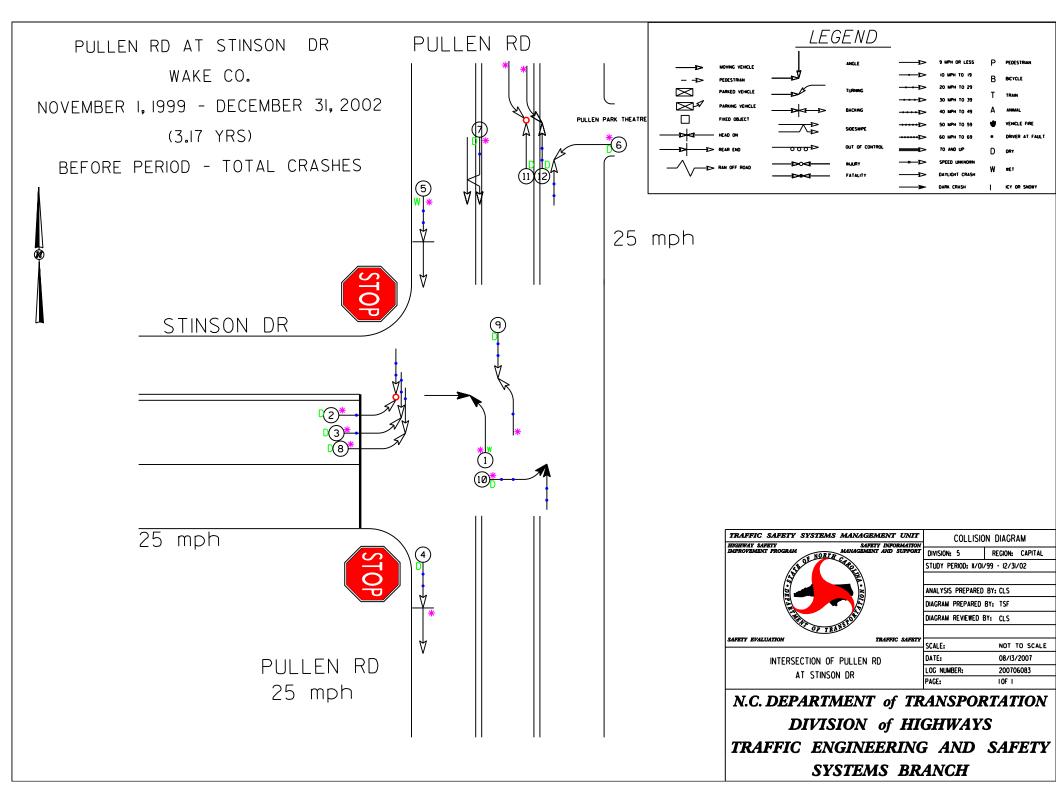
Appendix B. Location Photos and Collision Diagrams

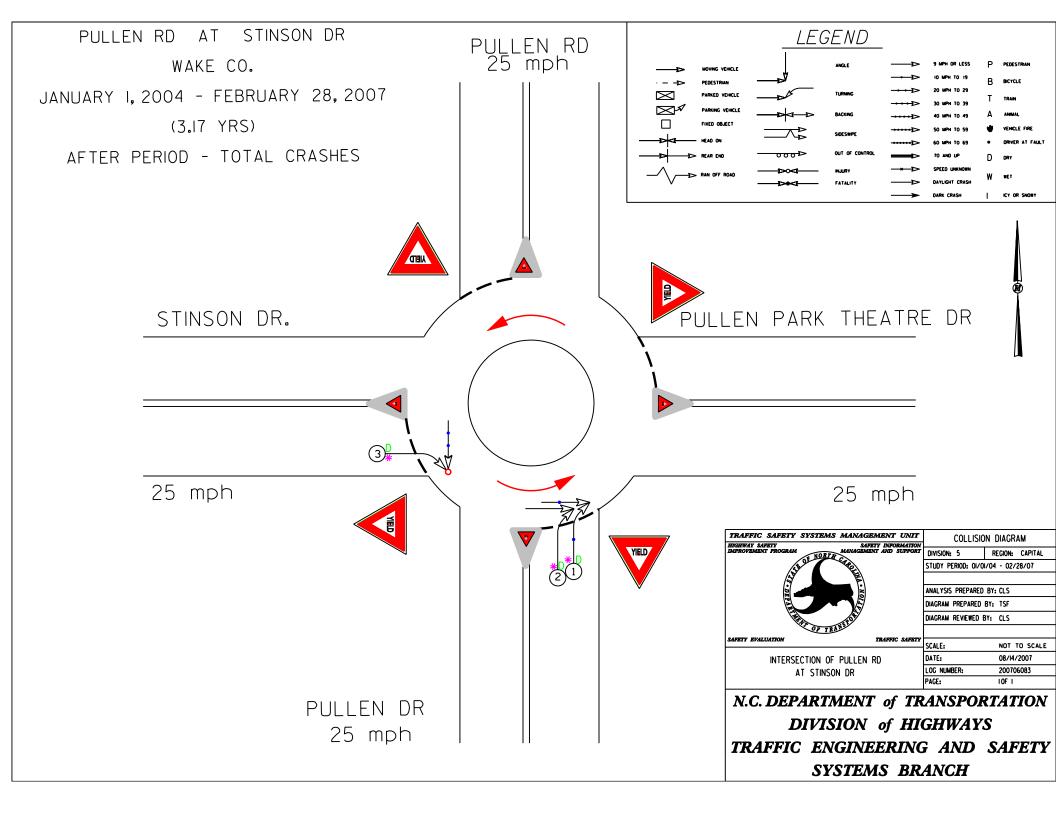
GROUP 1

Pullen at Stinson





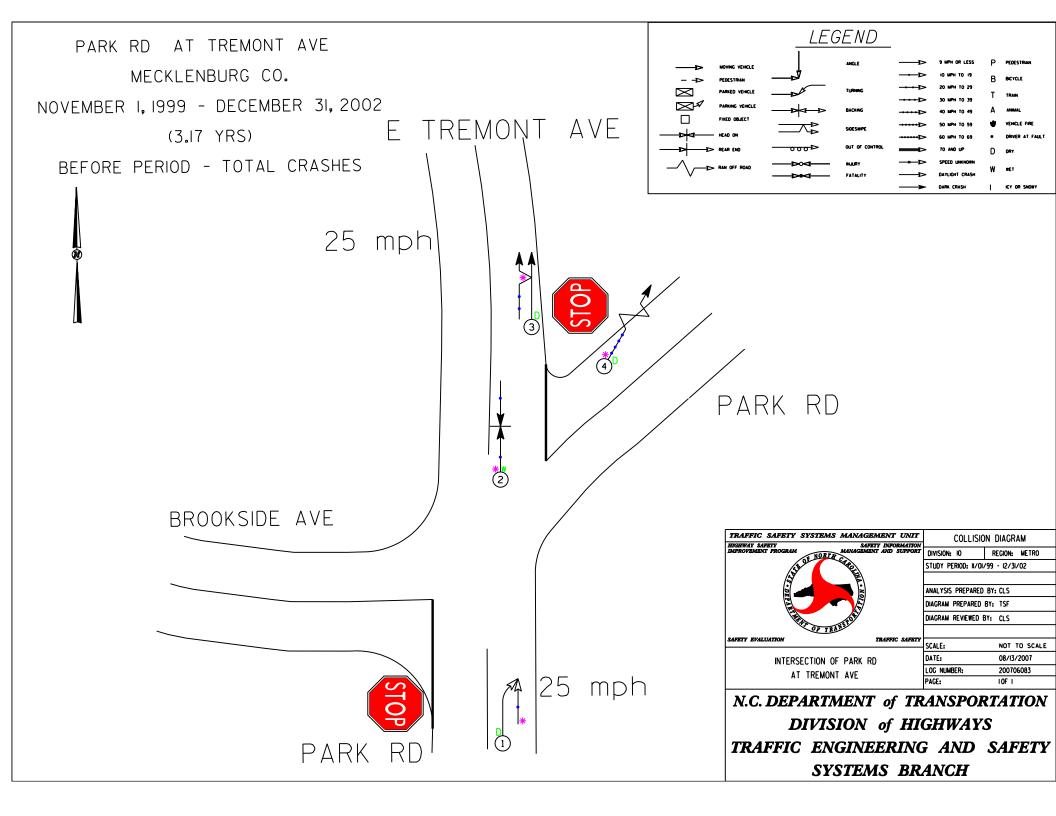


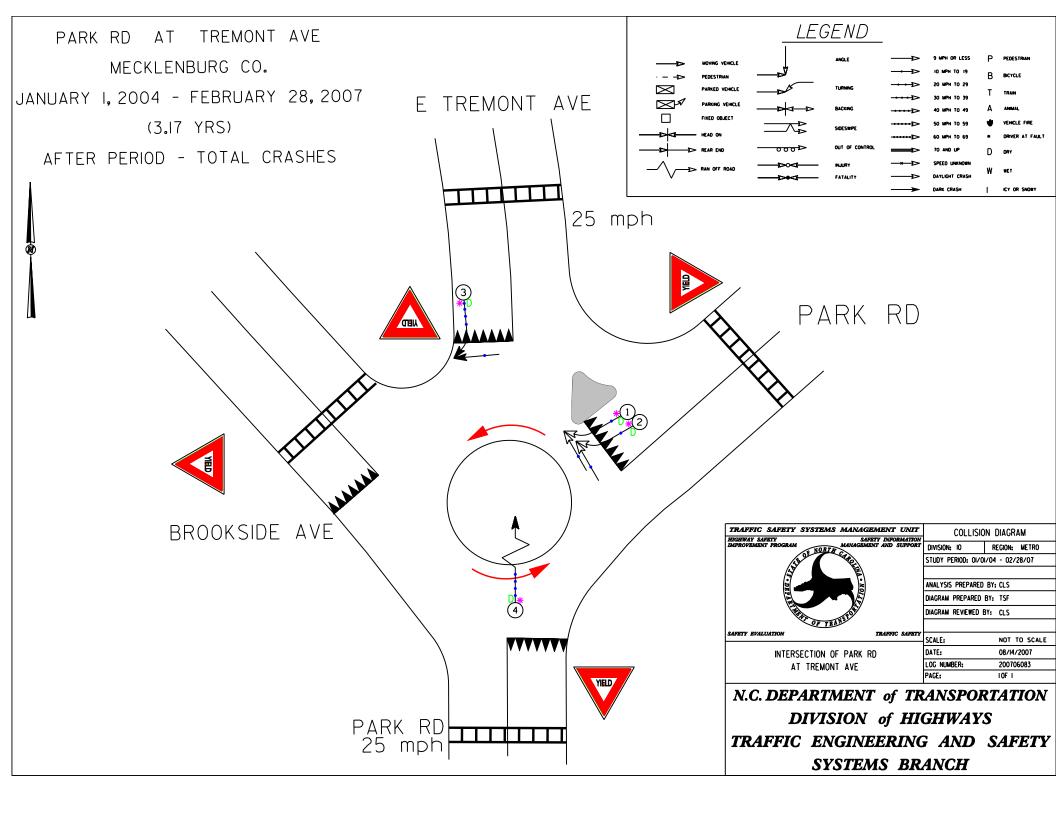


Park at Tremont





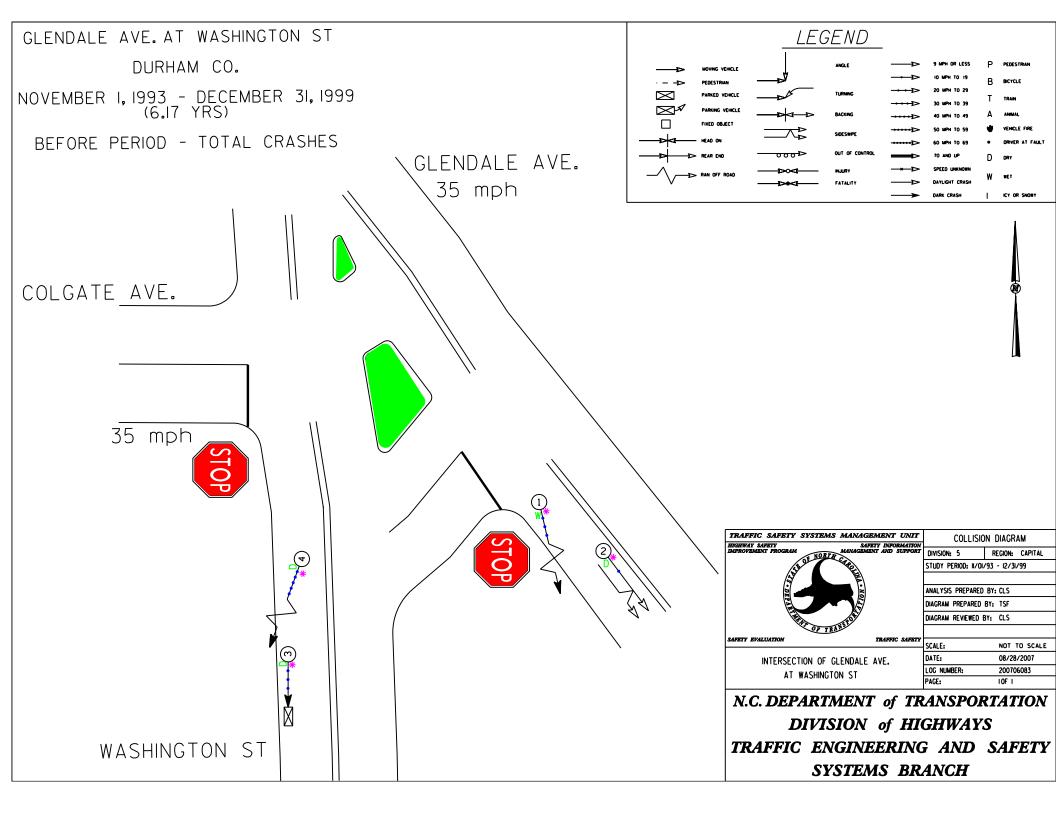


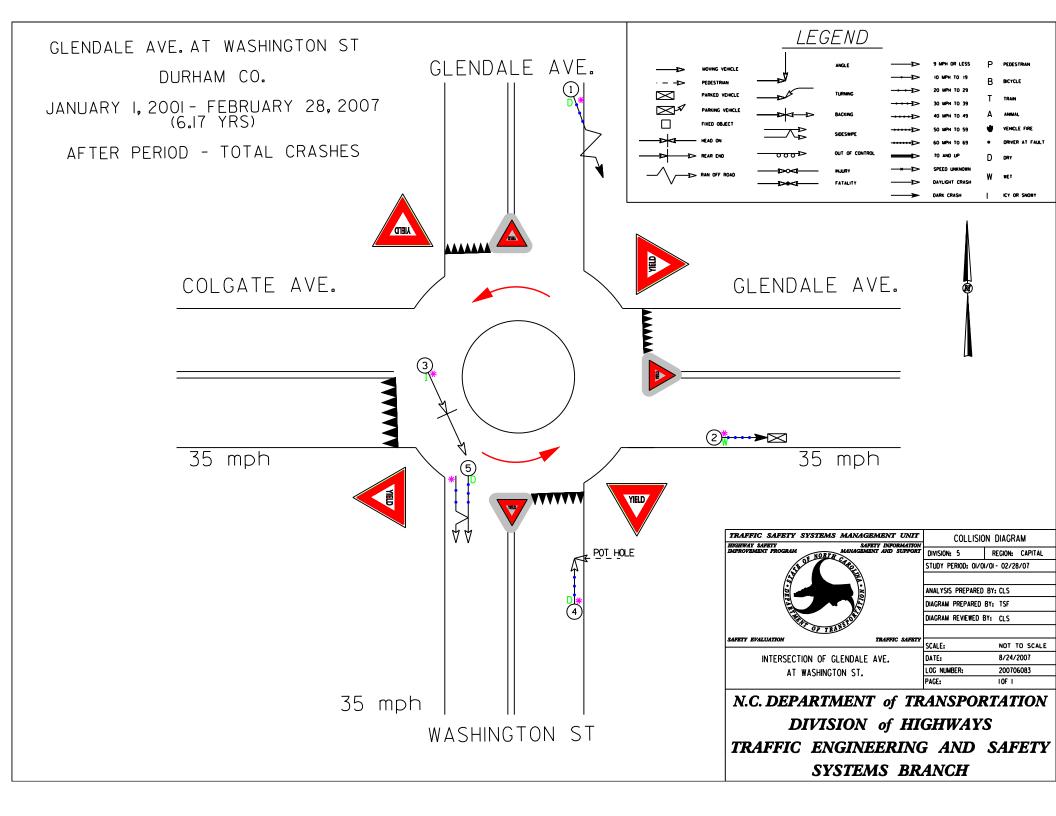


Washington at Glendale





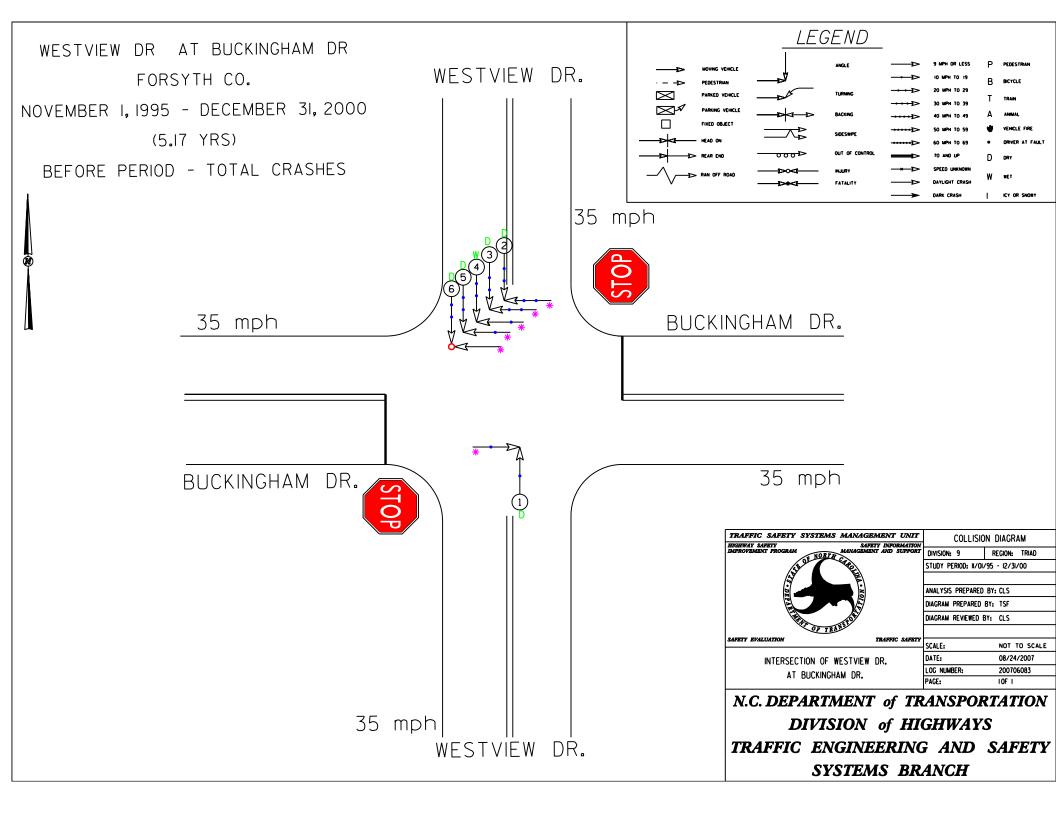


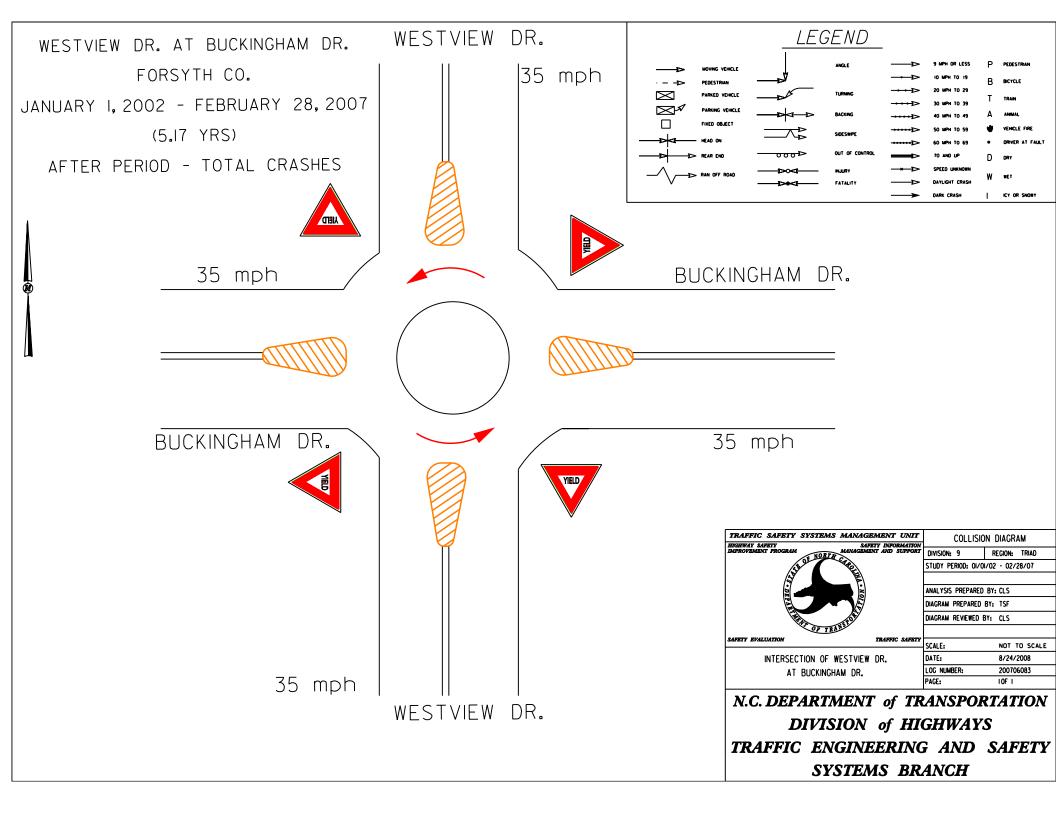


Westview at Buckingham





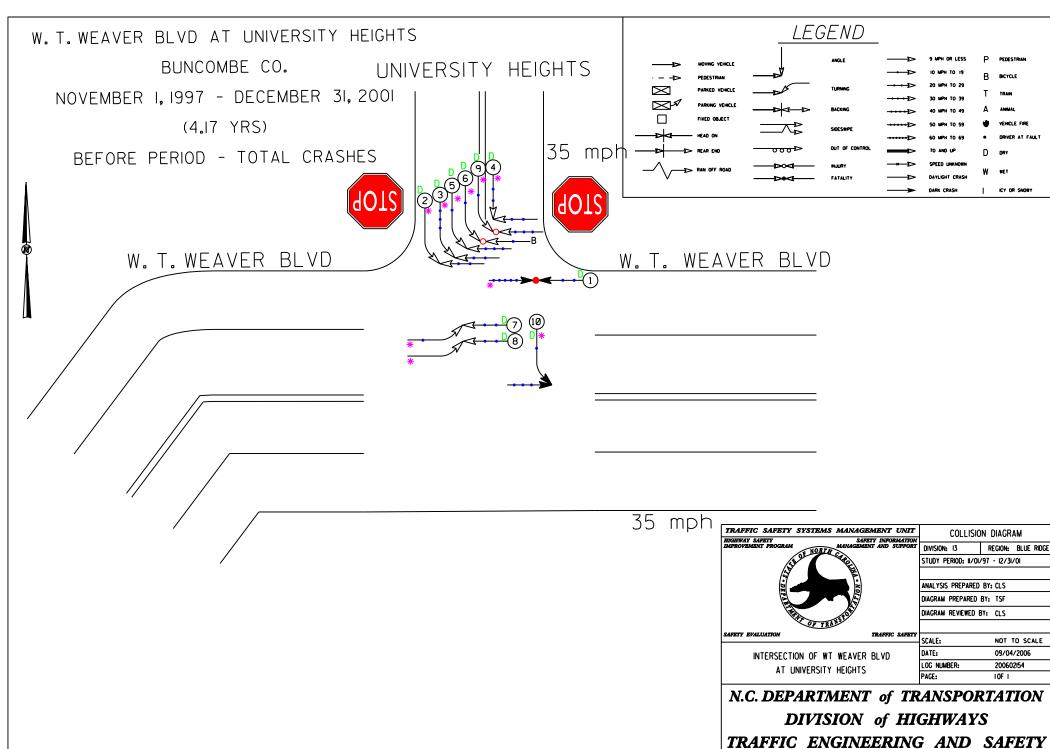




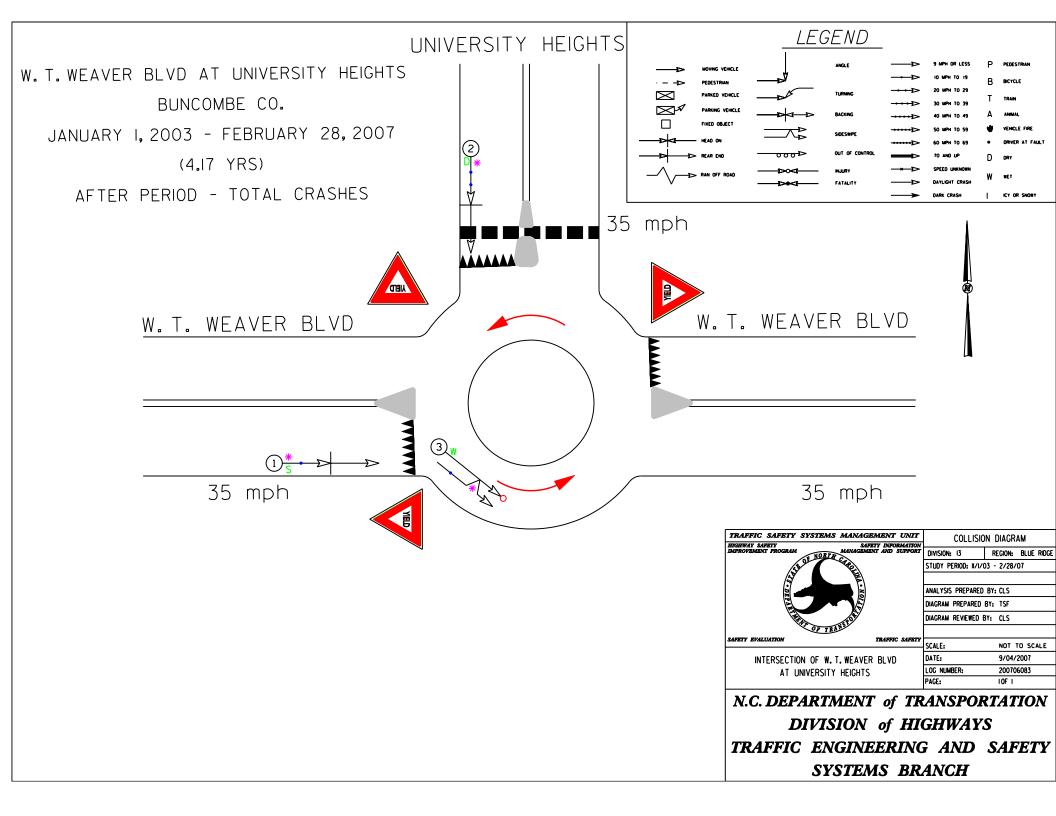
WT Weaver at University Heights







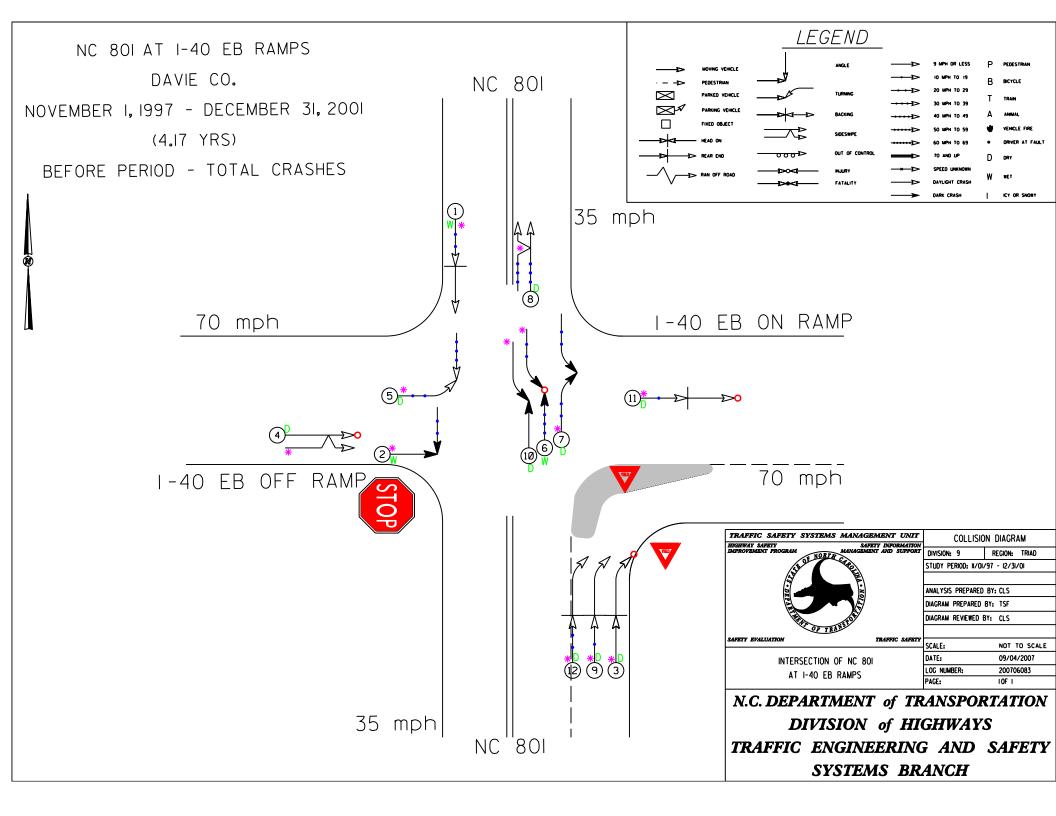
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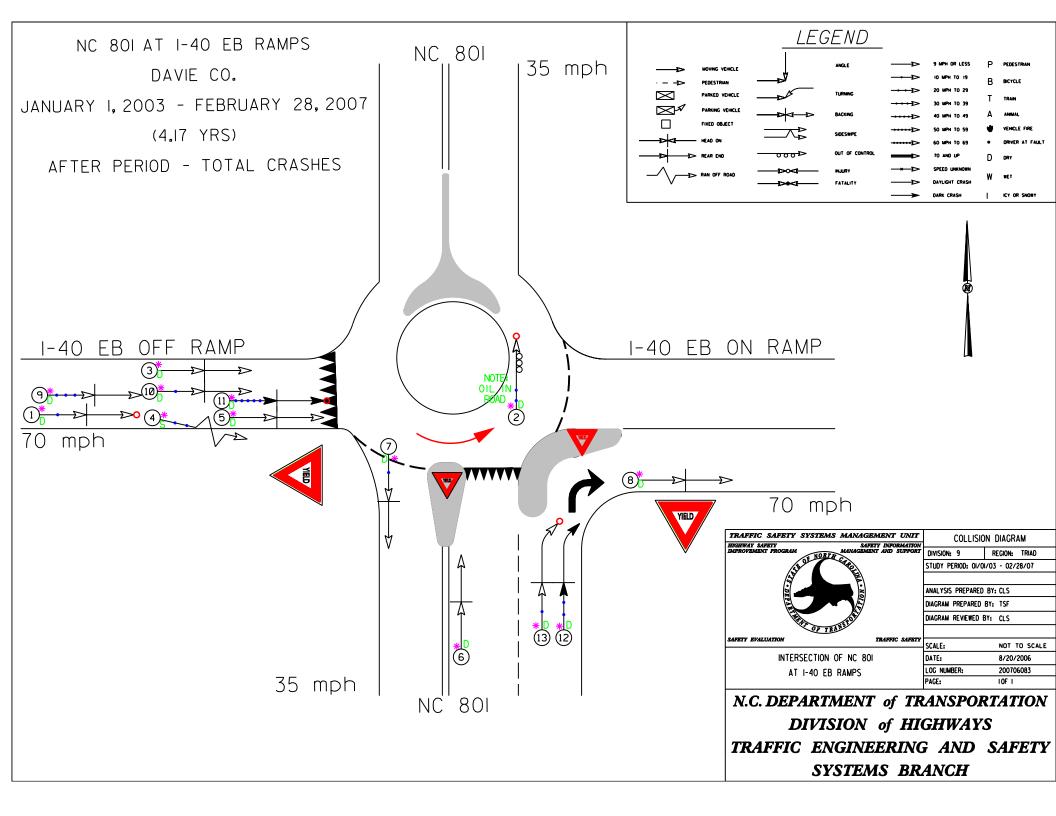


NC 801 at I-40 EB Ramp





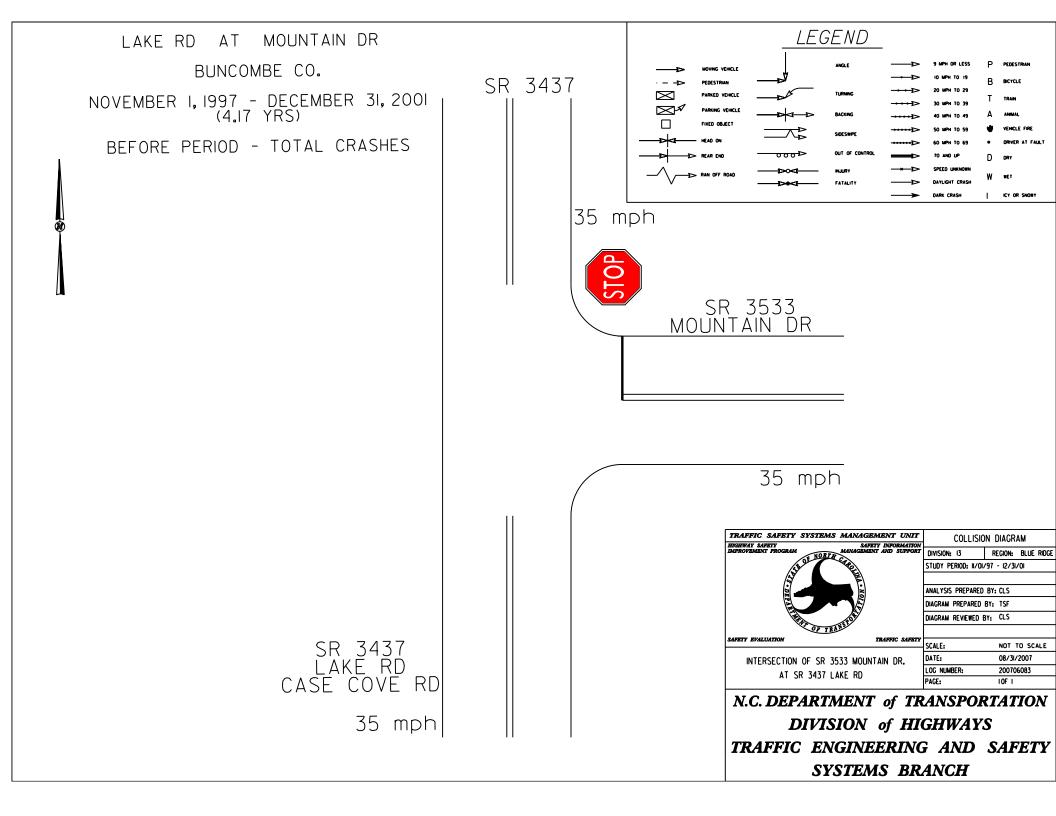


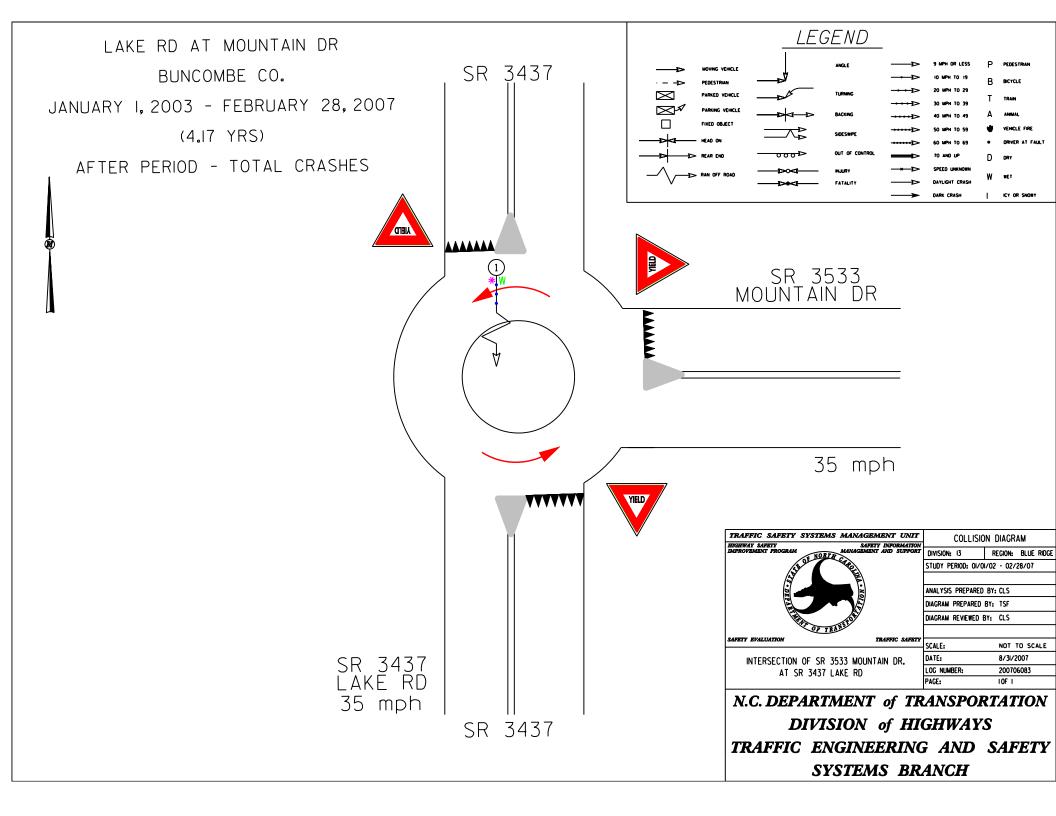


Lake at Mountain







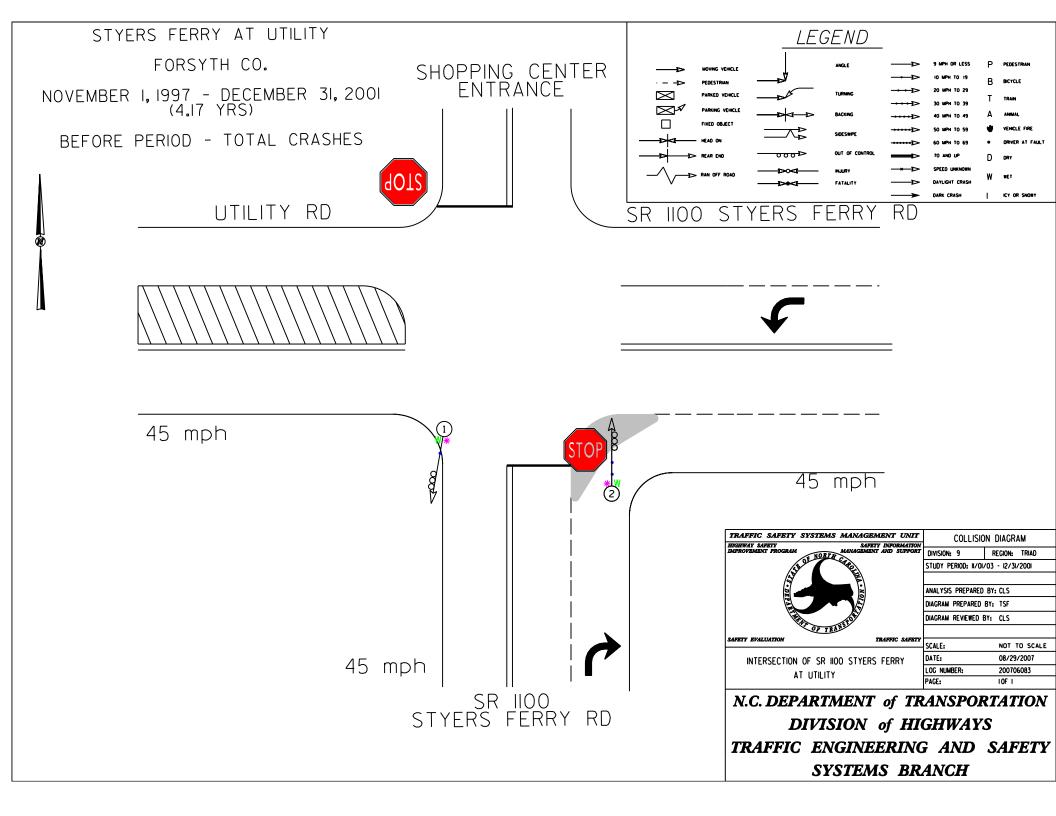


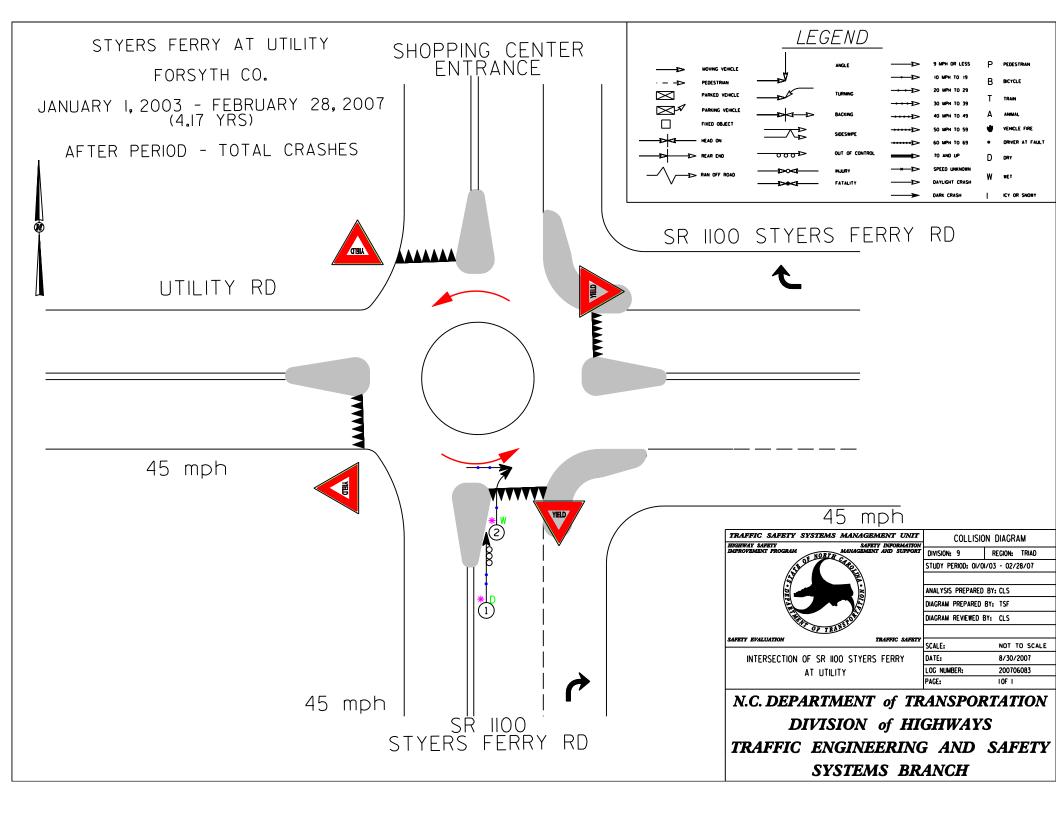
GROUP 2

Styers Ferry at Utility





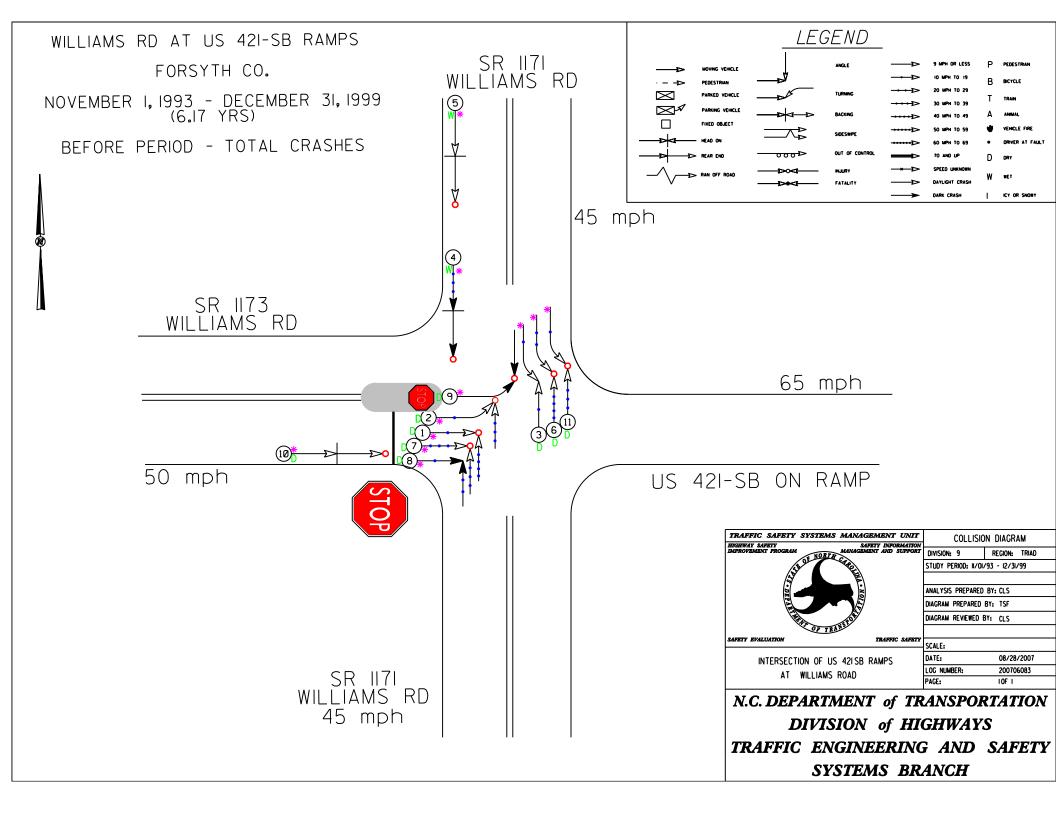


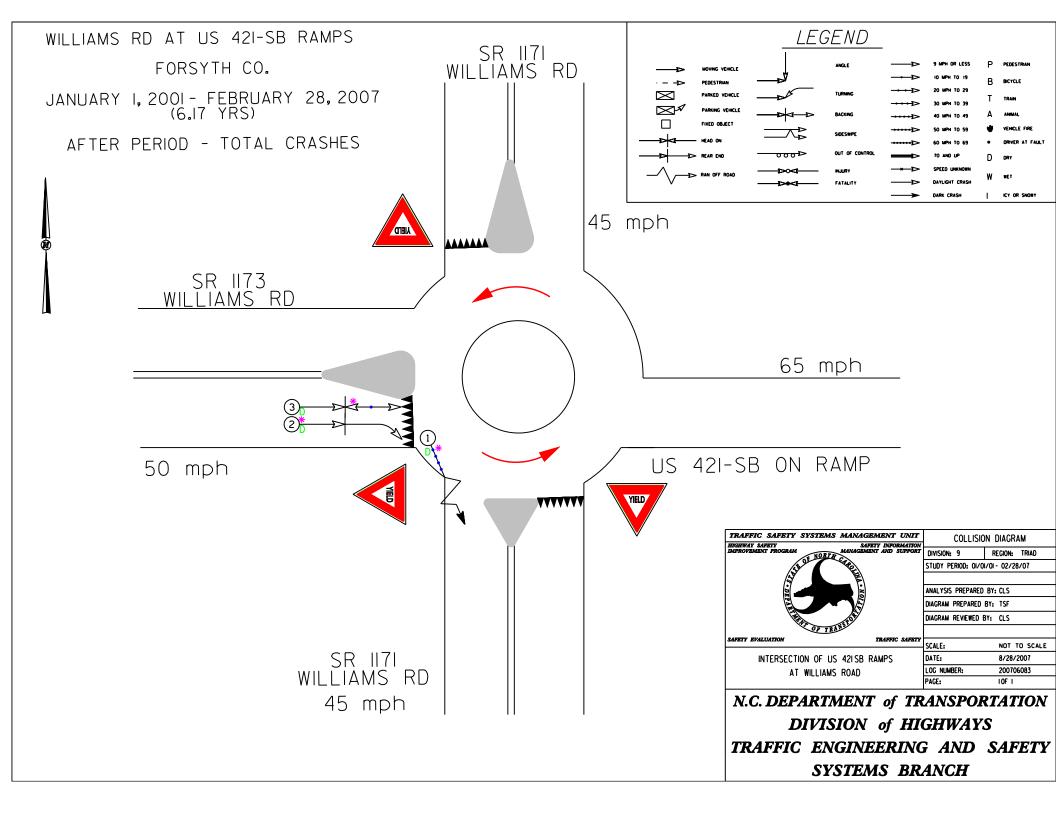


Williams Road at US 421 SB Ramps





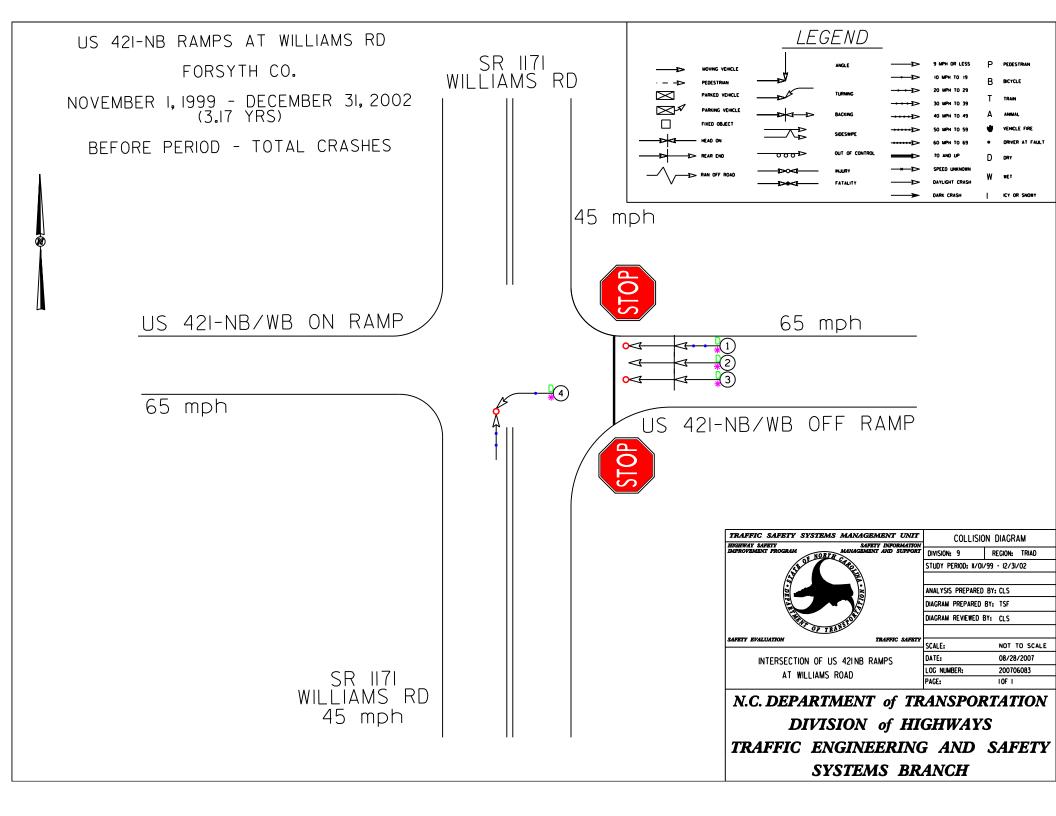


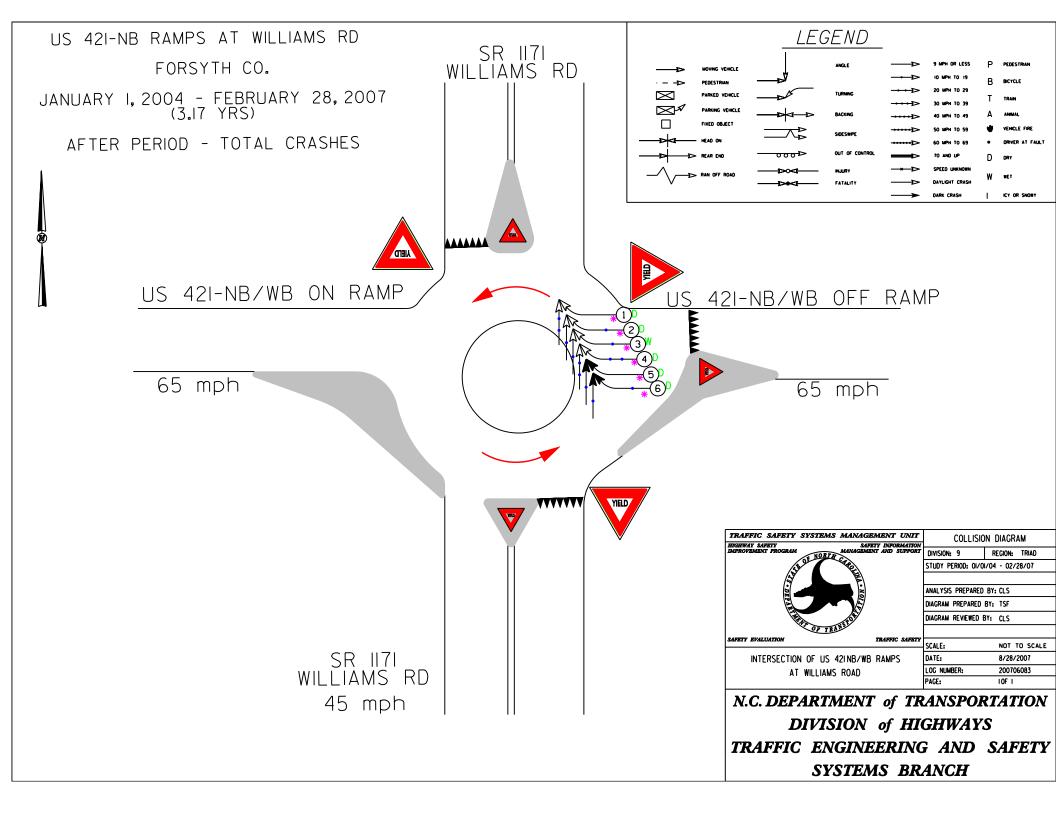


Williams at US 421 NB Ramps





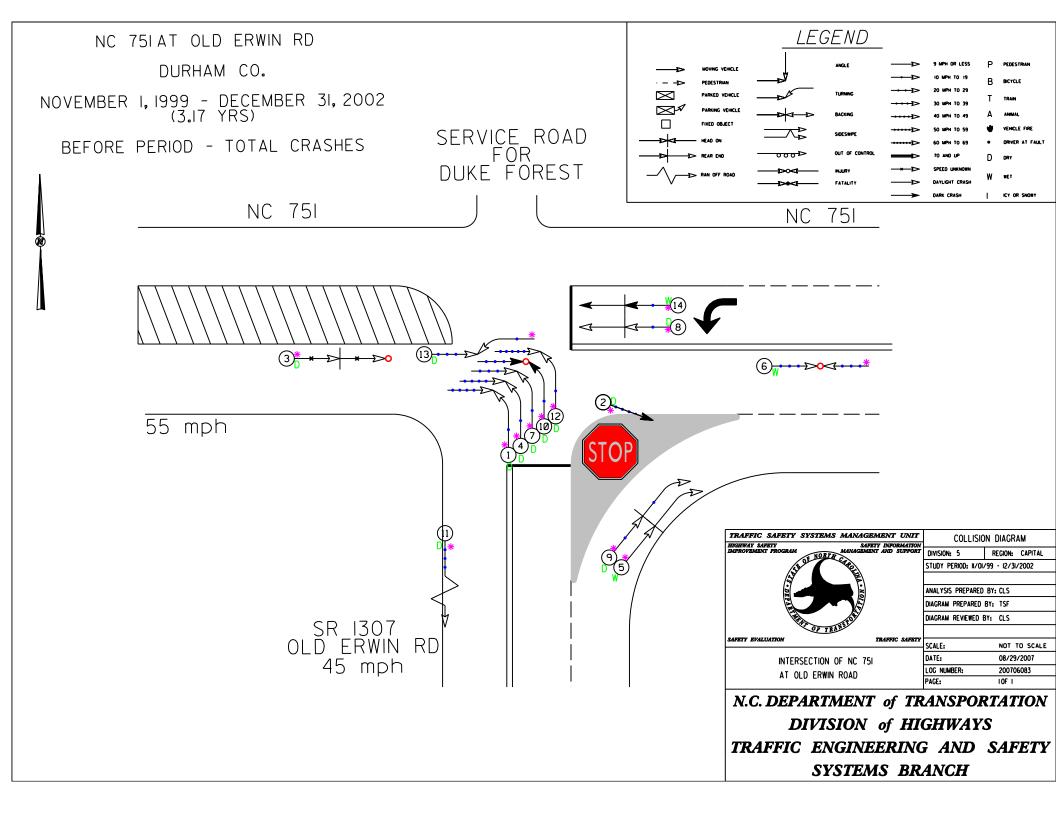


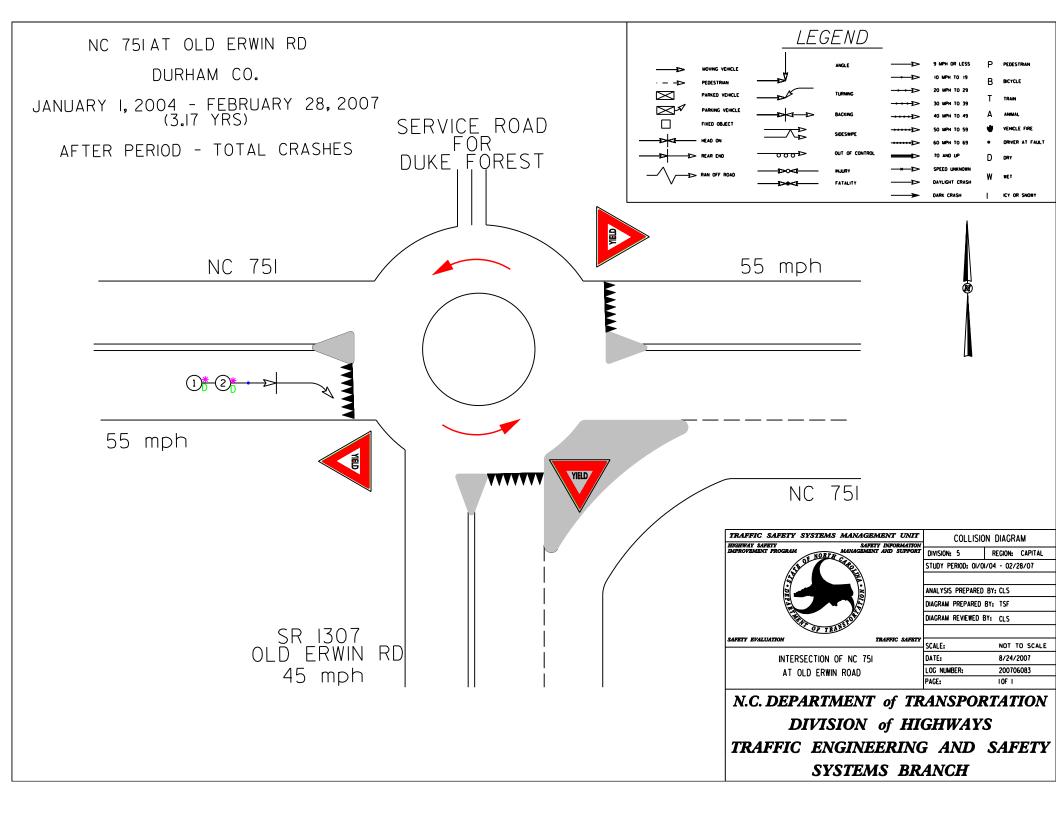


NC 751 at Old Erwin





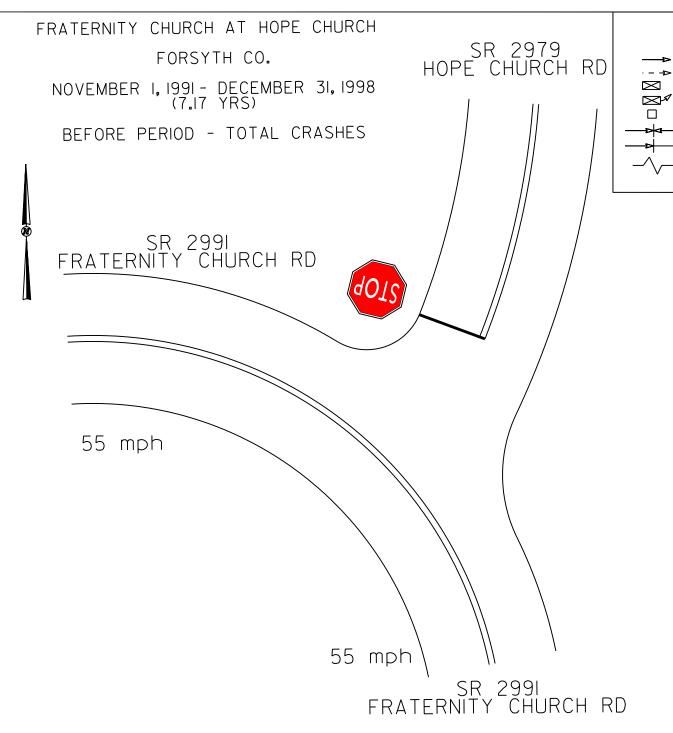




Fraternity Church at Hope Church









INTERSECTION OF FRATERNITY CH ROAD

AT HOPE CH ROAD

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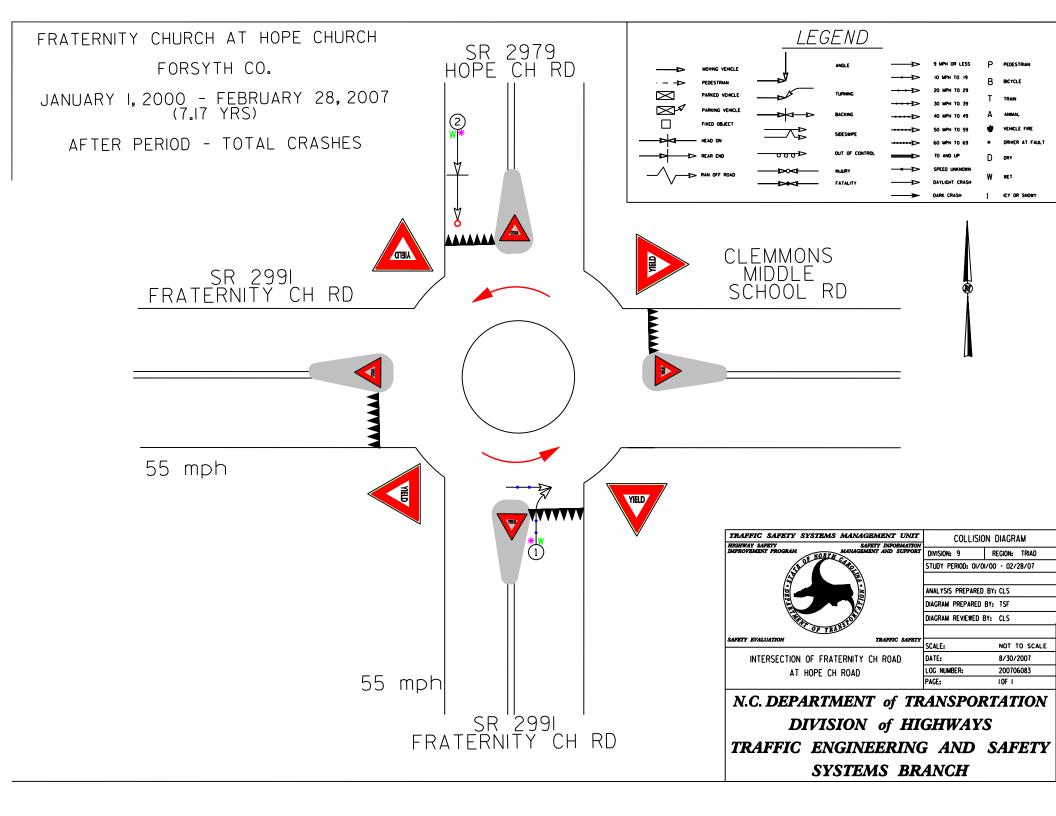
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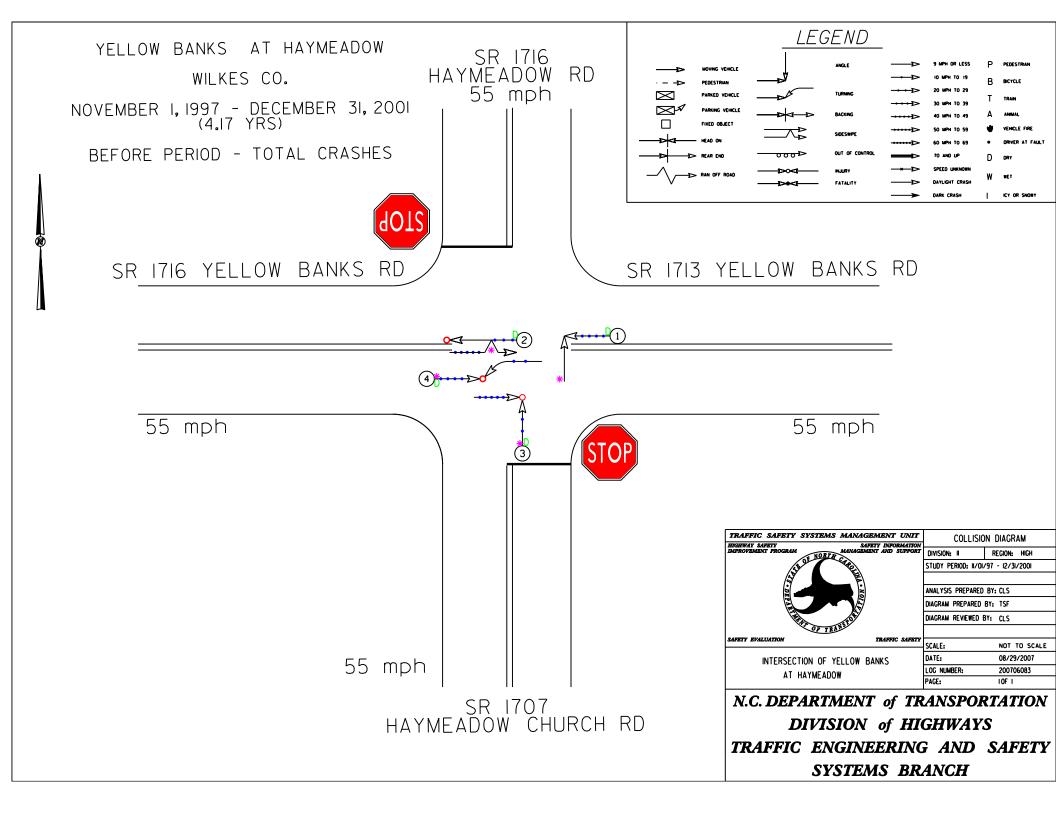
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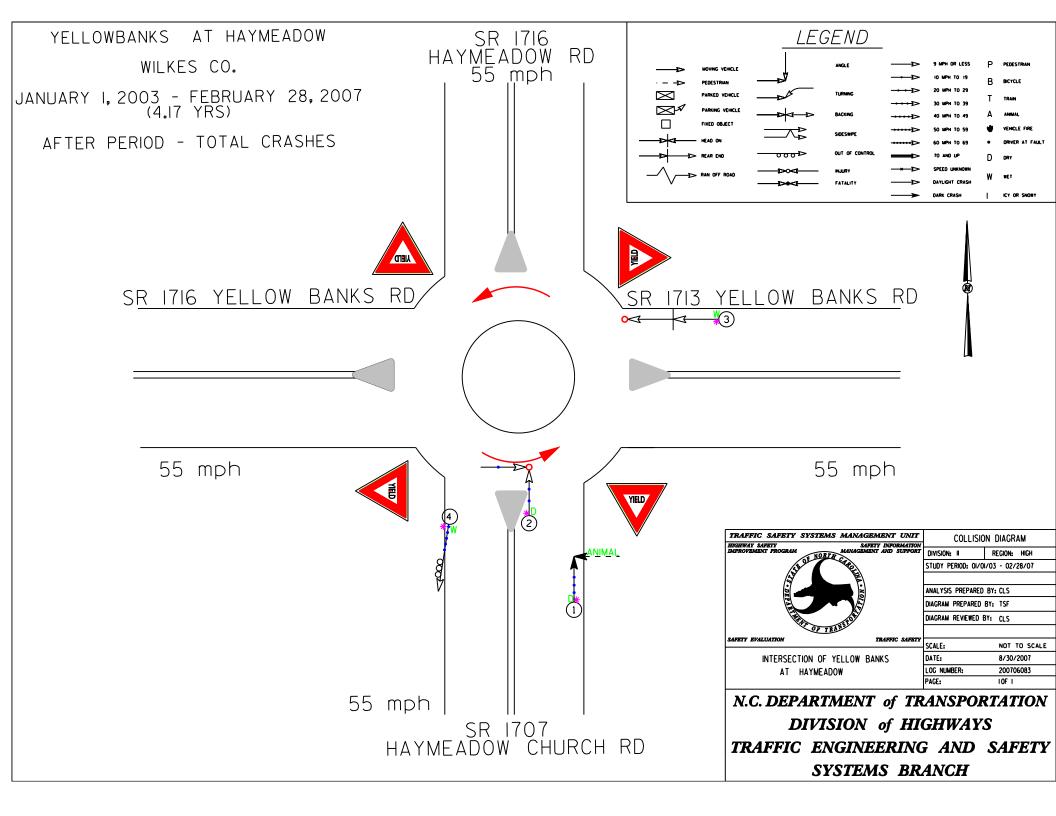
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LEGEND



Yellowbanks at Haymeadow – No Photos Available





GROUP 3

Ninth at Davidson





